

Remarks

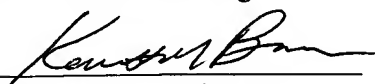
This amendment is being filed in connection with the above-referenced patent application and in response to the Office Action dated July 12, 2006 in connection therewith. In the instant Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are allowed, while the other remaining pending claims either stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) or have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. By way of this submission, Applicants have canceled all rejected and objected to claims, and have added new claims 29-34, each of which depends (either directly or indirectly) from one of allowed claims 1 or 11.

As such, each of the instant claims, as currently pending, is either allowed (as indicated by the Examiner), or clearly allowable as being dependent on an allowed claim. In summary, therefore, and for the above reasons, Applicants submit that each of the currently pending independent claims – *i.e.*, claims 1 and 11 – has been allowed, and, since each of the remaining currently pending claims – *i.e.*, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 12, 14, 15 and 29-34 – depends from one of the allowed independent claims, each of these claims are therefore patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons and thus are allowable.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this submission. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney, Kenneth M. Brown, at (908) 582 – 5998, should there be any questions or issues for discussion in the reconsideration of the pending application.

Respectfully,

Anindya Basu
Chih-Hao Luke Ong
April Patricia Rasala
Frederick Brice Shepherd
Gordon Thomas Wilfong

By 
Kenneth M. Brown, Attorney
Reg. No. 37590
908 – 582 – 5998

Lucent Technologies Inc.

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